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MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW YORK MAN GUILTY OF PASSPORT FRAUD

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE – United States Attorney Tom Colantuono announced that MICHAEL LUMLEY, 39, of Kensington Avenue, Buffalo, NY, pleaded guilty late yesterday to committing passport fraud. LUMLEY was indicted in U.S. District Court last June after agents of the U.S. State Department's Diplomatic Security Service uncovered the fraud at the National Passport Center in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

LUMLEY, a Jamaican national, pleaded guilty to willfully and knowingly making false statements to the State Department in a passport application in order to fraudulently obtain a United States passport. In April, 2002, LUMLEY submitted a passport application in which he claimed that he was born in the United States Virgin Islands. LUMLEY also submitted a counterfeit Virgin Islands birth certificate along with the false application.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated: "Passport fraud is a matter of grave concern. We will do everything possible to make sure that passports are not issued to persons who misrepresent their citizenship or falsify passport applications. Anyone who submits false information or fraudulently poses as a citizen to obtain a United States passport will be prosecuted."

This case resulted from an ongoing initiative known as "Operation Checkmate" which is designed to identify false passport applications that are submitted for adjudication to the National Passport Center in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The National Passport Center processes and adjudicates approximately two million applications each year, or one quarter of all United States passport applications. Operation Checkmate is a joint initiative of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Hampshire, the U.S. Department of State Diplomatic Security Service, the Social Security Administration Office of Inspector General and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

LUMLEY's sentencing hearing was set by US District Judge Steven J. McAuliffe for November 25, 2003 at 11:30 AM. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney Alfred Rubega.